United Nations A/65/534–S/2010/547

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 October 2010

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda items 34, 39, 66 and 75

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

Letter dated 20 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the remarks by President Serzh Sargsyan of the Republic of Armenia at his meeting with journalists from Armenian Diaspora on 16 October 2010. These remarks are illustrative of Armenia's unconcealed racist ideology and religious prejudices.

Thus, referring to the results of some "genetic" study, the President of the Republic of Armenia stated that "as a nation, Armenia has been around for the last 8,000 years" (see official website of the President of the Republic of Armenia, available from www.president.am/events/news/eng/?id=1252). These words of the President of the Republic of Armenia, apart from being based on this country's confused history, were in the direct context of his vision of superiority of the Armenians over other nations, including the Azerbaijanis, who were characterized by the head of the Armenian State as a "Turkic Muslim nomadic tribe".

It seems the President of the Republic of Armenia forgot what dire consequences the world suffered as a result of such "genetic studies" in the past.

Moreover, it is not the first time that Armenian high-ranking officials make statements that openly promote the outrageous ideas of ethnic differentiation, which are contrary to the fundamental principles of international law as well as to the moral and ethical principles of humanity. Thus, the public comments made by the previous President of the Republic of Armenia, Robert Kocharyan, about "ethnic incompatibility between Armenians and Azerbaijanis" have produced justifiable

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indignation within the international community. The then Secretary-General of the Council of Europe Walter Schwimmer said that "Kocharian's comment was tantamount to warmongering" and manifestation of "bellicose and hate rhetoric", while the then President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Peter Schieder stated that "since its creation the Council of Europe has never heard the phrase 'ethnic incompatibility'".

Accordingly, the recent remarks by Serzh Sargsyan have become yet another solid piece of evidence testifying to the consistency of the official Yerevan line in conveying the odious ideas of racial superiority and hatred laid down in the State policy of the Republic of Armenia.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is confident that, for the purposes of lasting peace, security and stability in the South Caucasus, there is no alternative other than, by concerted efforts of the international community, to convince the Republic of Armenia to cease its racially and religiously motivated policy and practice, to put an end to the illegal occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to denounce its territorial claims towards neighbouring nations and to establish civilized relations with all regional countries.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 39, 66 and 75, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative